

TO: House Natural Resource Committee

FROM: Steve Curtiss, Chairman, Glen Lake Irrigation District, Board Member of Lincoln County Natural Resource Council, Associate Member Montanans for Multiple Use, Third generation homesteader and life-long resident of the Tobacco Valley.

Mr. Chairman:

I strongly encourage you to support SJR 21. Our irrigation district, which is the lifeblood of the Tobacco Valley, receives all of its water from the watersheds within the Galton Project.

As a citizen of the Tobacco Valley, I strongly support multiple uses which have been the custom and culture and heritage of this area for decades. We have depended on this area for logging, mining, firewood gathering, berry picking, fishing, hunting, as well as scenic enjoyment forever. I personally have snowmobiled, hauled logs, and hauled equipment in and out of this area since the mid-1960's through the 70's and 80's.

It is imperative this area remain open to access and travel for the sake of fire prevention and maintaining the watersheds with the use of healthy forests as a result of good forest management practices. It has been proven that healthy forests in a watershed provide increased water flows as well as purer water than do areas of "let burn" policy which create unhealthy forests, unhealthy water and many slides with sedimentation to the waterways. It is our goal through these practices to have clean water for fish, wildlife and irrigation.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

STEVE CURTISS, Chairman
Glen Lake Irrigation District